



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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### **STATE ENERGY DIVISION SETS DATES FOR WIND & AGRICULTURE WORKSHOPS**

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For Idaho farmers and ranchers, electricity costs can sometimes be their single largest operating expense. Especially those farmers who must use electricity to power pumps that supply irrigation water to their crops and to power massive sprinkler operations.

Now state Energy Division scientists want Idahoans to imagine the economic benefit to farmers if they could harness Idaho's wind to power turbines that generate a supply of electricity that results in their electricity meters actually running backwards.

The potential economic benefit to Idaho's agricultural economy presented by wind power will be the core topic of a pair of special workshops planned for December by the Idaho Energy Division.

The free workshops are set for December 12 in Twin Falls and December 13 in Idaho Falls, according to wind specialists with the Idaho Energy Division.

A national expert on wind and agriculture from Texas will be part of each workshop. Vaughn Nelson has an intensive research background in wind and agriculture issues including wind and irrigation.

The workshop also will include a special element titled "Can you make money from wind on your land," aimed at Idaho landowners living in areas of good wind power potential. Another element of the workshops will be an interactive panel of wind experts examining the realities of making money from wind.

The workshops run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and are free. They will be held:

- **Dec. 12** – Muggers Meeting Room, 516 2 South in Twin Falls; and
- **Dec. 13** – West Coast Idaho Falls Hotel, 475 River Parkway in Idaho Falls.

For more information on the workshops contact the Idaho Energy Hotline, (800) 334-SAVE (7283) or call Gerald Fleischman (208) 327-7959.